Modern Chriſtianity:

EXEMPLIFIED AT

WEDNESBURY,

And other adjacent Places in

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Tua res agitur paries quum proximus ardet

PUBLISH'D

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ADVERTISEMENT.

IT was our Desire and Design, that the following Accounts, drawn up long since, should have slept for ever: But the gross Misrepresentations of these Facts, which are still spread abroad from Day to Day, constrain us at length to speak the naked Truth, in as plain a Manner as we are able; and now let any Man of common Humanity judge, Whether these Things ought to be so?

BRITISH MUSEUM
13 29
NOV

Modern Chriſtianity, &c.

1. I *John Eaton*, of *Wedneſbury* in *Staffordſhire*, heard the Rev. Mr *Charles Weſley*, in the latter End of the Year 1742. preach Salvation by Faith, in the *Colepit Field*. I and many others rejoiced to hear it, particularly many of the poor People at *Darleſton*, ſome of whom ſoon after began to meet together in the Evenings, to ſing, and pray, and read the Bible.

Some of *Wenſbury* uſed to go and meet with them; but one Evening the Mob at *Darleſton* roſe, pelted them with Clods and Stones, and broke all the Windows of the Houſe where they had been.

On the 30th of *May* 1743. *John Adams* (whoſe Houſe it was) fetch'd a Warrant, to carry ſome of the Rioters before Juſtice *P.* of *Walſal*. He deſired ſome of us of *Wedneſbury* to go with him; ſo four or five of us went: But the Mob at *Walſal* immediately roſe upon us: ſo that we were obliged to take Shelter in a Publick Houſe. Here we were kept cloſe Priſoners till it was dark, ſeveral of us having been much hurt and abuſed. When it was Night, we eſcaped one or two at a Time. *Frances Ward* and I went laſt.

On the 21ſt of *June* 1743. a large Mob came to my Houſe at *Wenſbury*. I was then Conſtable; ſo I went to the Door with my Conſtable's Staff, and began reading the Act of Parliament againſt Riots; but the Stones flew ſo thick about my Head, that I was forced to leave off reading and retire; ſo they broke about half my Windows and went away: But ſome Hours after, they came again, and broke all the reſt, and the Door of my Houſe, and the Clock, to Pieces. This is a ſhort Account of the firſt Damage that was done to me

John Eaton.

2. On the 30th of *May*, I *James Jones* went with *John Eaton* and ſome others to *Walſal*. As we were going to and from the Juſtice's Houſe, the Mob pelted us with Dirt and Stones. They raged more and more,

till *Francis Ward* desired the Justice, who was present, to quiet them: But instead of that, he swung his Hat round his Head twice, and cried, "Huzza!" On which Encouragement, they grew so outrageous, that we were forced to take Shelter in a Publick House, and to stay there till it was dark.

On the 21st of *June*, a great Multitude gathered together in *Wensbury* Church yard; among them was *Harvey Walklet* of *Wensbury*, and *Richard Dorset* of *Darleston*. *Harvey* said to *Richard Dorset*, "Methinks "they are not so well arm'd as I would have them." *Richard* answered, "There are many pretty Fellows "from *Darleston*; I know them to be good Blood." *Harvey* replied, "There is *John Baker* with the Oak "Bough in his Hat, he will break the first Pane of Mr "*Eaton*'s Windows." Accordingly they went to Mr *Eaton*'s first, and from thence to other Houses. Here are above Fourscore Houses in and about *Wensbury*, in many of which there are not three Panes of Glass left.

Wednesbury, June 29. *James Jones.*

3. I *Jonathan Jones*, in the County of *Stafford*, Farmer, am willing to pay the King and Country their Due, might I be at Peace, and go about my lawful Occasions, as I ought to do.

On the 20th of *June*, at my Neighbour *Adams*'s House, two or three were singing a Hymn, and a Parcel of Prentices and others, in a very rude Manner, came and threw many Stones thro' the Windows; in particular Mr *Richard Taylor*'s Prentice. So my Neighbour *John Adams* goes to Squire *P.* and brings a Warrant for him; but Mr *Taylor* goes to *Walsal*, to the Justice, before the Offenders were brought, and he was with Squire *P.* when we came, who would not act at his own Hall, but sent us down into the Town; where a great Mob was waiting for our coming.

So the Constable gave him the Warrant, and he said, "What! I understand you are *Methodists!* I will not "act for you." Then he went to the Door, and told a great Mob, "They might do what they would;" and took off his Hat, and swung it about, and went away. They gave a great Shout, and some of them swore bitterly, they would murder us all. We sent for

the

the Conſtable, to help us out of the Town; but he was not to be found. So we ſtaid in the Houſe about two Hours, till we thought the Mob was gone; but as ſoon as we came out, ſome began to hallow, and the Street was quickly full. They beat and bruiſed us very much; but thro' God's Mercy we eſcaped with our Lives.

About a Week after, there aroſe a great Mob at *Darleſton*, and broke me nine large Windows, and many of my Goods. The ſame Day my Man was coming home with my Team, and they met him, and beat him, and much abuſed my Horſes. At Night they came to break the reſt of my Goods; but I gave them Money, and they went away.

So I was at *Richard Dorſet*'s, our Churchwarden, and many of the Mob came in and ſaid, "Come now, "d——n you, *Dorſet*, we have done our Work, pay "us our Wages." And I ſaw the Drink come in, in large Jugs, and every one drank what he would.

What I have here ſaid, I am ready to make Oath of.

Jonathan Jones.

4. I *Francis Ward* of *Wedneſbury*, went to *Walſal*, *May* 30. with *John Eaton*, to ſee if we could have Juſtice done to the Rioters, who had abuſed our Neighbours at *Darleſton*. We went to *Benjamin Weſtley*'s, at the Sign of the *George*, when one Mr *Taylor*, Curate of *Walſal*, came with the Mob to the Houſe, and, in our hearing, encouraged them to inſult us. Accordingly they pelted us with Dirt and Stones, all the Way we went to the Juſtice's Gate. The Juſtice came out and ſaid, "We muſt go down into the Town, and then he would hear our Complaint." But as we went, the Mob continued to pelt us, tho' the Juſtice was with us. I deſired he would be pleaſed to read the Act of Parliament againſt Riots; but he would not. When we came to *Benjamin Weſtley*'s, the Juſtice would have had a Hearing in the Streets, among the Mob; but at laſt he was prevail'd with to go into the Houſe. Then he called for *John Adams*, or his Wife, and, without hearing them ſpeak, ſaid, "What, you are *Methodiſts*," or Words to that Purpoſe, and immediately went out to the Mob. We ſtaid in the Houſe a conſiderable Time,

hoping they would diſperſe; but, as ſoon as ever we came out, they gathered round us again, and beat and pelted us with whatever they could find. One of them came to me, and ſtruck me on the Eye, and cut it ſo, that I expected to loſe my Sight. I got into a Shop, and had my Eye dreſs'd, and then returned to my Friends. The Mob purſued me again, fetch'd me out of the Houſe, and beat me very much; but with much Difficulty I got from them again, and eſcaped a ſecond Time into the Houſe. They fetch'd me out again, and dragg'd me along the Street, and thro' the Kennel to and fro, till I had quite loſt my Strength, and was ſo weak, I was not able to get up. There came a poor Woman and ſaid to the Mob, "Will ye kill the Man?" and lifted me up. With much ado I got home; but the Abuſe I there receiv'd threw me into a Fever.

5. About *Whitſuntide*, I *Joſhua Conſtable*, of *Darleſton*, had all my Windows broke by the Mob, and many of my Goods damaged or ſpoil'd, and ſo had many of my Neighbours; in particular, *John Cotterell*, Smith, *Thomas Butler*, *Thomas Wilkinſon*, *Aaron Longmore*, *William Powell*, *Anne Evans*, *Walter Carter*, *Samuel Foſter*, and *Thomas Wilks*, had their Windows all broke.

Edward Martin, *Anne Low*, *Joan Fletcher*, *Edward Horton*, *Mumford Wilks*, *Joſ. Yardly*, and *Robert Deacon*, had all their Windows broke twice.

James Foſter, Nailer, *Sarah Hires*, Widow, and *Jonathan Jones*, had their Windows broke, and Money extorted, to ſave their Houſes.

John Foſter, Nailer, and *Joice Wood*, had their Windows broke, and their Goods broken and ſpoiled.

Joſ. Spittle, Collier, had his Windows broke, his Houſe broke open, ſome Goods taken, and ſome loſt.

William Woods, Brickmaker, had his Windows broke twice, and was compelled to go along with the Rioters.

Elizabeth Lingham, a Widow with five Children, had her Goods ſpoil'd, her Spinning-wheel (the Support of her Family) broke, and her Pariſh Allowance reduced from 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to 1 s. 6 *d.* a Week.

Valentine Amberſey, Collier, had his Windows broke twice,

twice, his Wife, big with Child, abuſed and beat with Clubs.

George Wynn had his Windows and Goods broke, and to ſave his Houſe was forced to give them Drink.

Thomas Day had his Windows and Goods broke, and was forced to remove from the Town.

Joſ. Stubs had his Windows broke twice, and his Wife ſo frighted, that ſhe miſcarried.

6. On *June* 20. *John Baker*, *Thomas Griffiths*, and *Daniel Oniens*, at the Head of a large Mob, came to my Houſe, *Jonas Turner* by Name, at *Weſt Bramwick*, near *Wenſbury*, and aſked, "Whether I would keep "from theſe Men, and go to the Church? I anſwered, "I go to the Church very often, but I never ſee any of "you there." Preſently *Daniel Oniens*, with a great Club, broke great part of my Windows at one Blow. Others laid hold of me and ſaid, "You ſhall go along "with us." I told them, "I would not." They dragg'd me by Force about 60 Yards, and then I got looſe from them. Afterwards they broke all my Windows, and threw into my Houſe three Baſket-full of Stones, to break my Goods.

7. Some time in *June*, about Four in the Afternoon, a Mob came to my Houſe at *Weſt Bramwick*; I was within, and my two Daughters without. They threw in Stones and Bricks ſo faſt, that I thought I ſhould have been knocked on the Head. Whereupon I opened the Door, and ran out amongſt them. One of my Daughters cried out, "My Mother will be killed." On which they fell to throwing Stones at her. She ran into a Neighbour's Houſe; but before ſhe could ſhut the Door, they broke the Bottom off with a Brick End. They followed my other Daughter with Stones, and one with a great Stake. She run into another Houſe, much frighted, expecting to be murdered. I aſked them, "How they could come and abuſe us thus?" Upon which one came with a large Club, and ſwore, "If I ſpoke another Word, he would knock me on the "Head, and bury me in the Ditch." Then he went to the Window, and broke two or three Panes of Glaſs, which were all that were left. A Woman then came

with a Club, and broke to Pieces part of the Tiling of the Houſe.

Of this I am ready to make Oath.

Mary Turner.

8. On the 19th of *June*, *James Yeoman*, of *Walſal*, ſaw me in my Father's Houſe at *Wenſbury*, and ſwore, "By G— you are there now; but we will break the "Windows, and kill you To-morrow." Accordingly he came with a Mob the next Day; and after they had broke all the Windows, he took up a Stone and ſaid, "Now, by G— I will kill you". He threw, it and ſtruck me on the Side of the Head. The Blood guſhed out, and I drop'd down immediately.

Mary Bird.

9. *June* 20. the Mob came to the Houſe of me *John Bird*, and demanded 5 *s.* of my Wife, or they would break all the Windows. She offered them ſome Money, which they ſnatch'd out of her Hand, and then broke ten Windows in Front, the Saſh-frames, Shutters, Caſes, Cheſt of Drawers, and Hanging-preſs, and damaged the Cieling, Doors, Dreſſer, and many other Things.

John Bird.

10. On the 20th of *June*, the Mob came to my Houſe. *John Baker* by Name came firſt. They threw in Stones and Bricks as faſt as they could throw them; ſo that we within were afraid of our Lives. They broke all the Windows I had in my Houſe, and likewiſe the Caſements and the Cieling; and when there was no more Damage for them to do, one of them cried out, "I ſuppoſe now you will go to your dear Jeſus's "Wounds, and ſee them open'd for you."

John Turner.

11. *June* 20. 1743. one *Daliſton*, my Neighbour at *Wenſbury*, after ſome Words, took me by the Throat, ſwore he would be the Death of me, gave me a great Swing, and threw me on the Ground. As ſoon as I aroſe, *Equal Baker*, a Collier, gave me a Blow on the Eye, and knocked me down again. When I got up, he came after me to my Houſe, and ſaid, "You Dog, I "will kill you." I went in, got a proper Application to my Eye, and lay down on the Bed. In about half an Hour, there came a large Mob to my Houſe, and broke

broke all the Windows, except about twenty Panes. The Kitchen Windows they clear'd, Lead, Bars and all, and broke the Window Poſts, and threw them into the Houſe. My Shop was ſhut up; but they ſoon broke it open, broke all my Pots and Bottles, and deſtroy'd almoſt all my Medicines. They broke alſo the Shelves and Drawers in the Shop to Pieces, and many of my Houſhold Goods.

That Day and the next, they broke the Windows and Goods, in more than Fourſcore Houſes.

Humphrey Hands.

12. In the latter End of *June* 1743. I *John Griffiths* of *Wenſbury*, with *Francis Ward*, went to Mr *D.* Juſtice of the Peace. We told him what Condition we and our Neighbours were in, our Houſes broken, and our Goods ſpoiled. He replied, "I ſuppoſe you follow "theſe Parſons that come about." So he talk'd to us very roughly, refuſed us a Warrant, and ſaid, "I will "neither meddle nor make." And after he and ſome Gentlewomen that were with him, had made as much Game at us as they thought fit, we came away without any Juſtice at all.

13. I *Mumford Wilks*, heard the Rev. Mr *E.* ſay to the Mob at *Darleſton*, (after they had committed theſe Outrages) "Well, my Lads, he that has done it *out of pure Zeal for the Church*, I don't blame him. My Lads, I hope you will let us *ſettle our Affairs in our own Pariſh ourſelves:* But if theſe Men ſhould come, and they ſhould follow them, then *your Help will be needful.*"

14. *Line* and *Mare's Green* have been long noted for Wickedneſs of every kind; for Curſing and Swearing, Sabbath-breaking, Idleneſs, and all manner of Debauchery. Few thereabouts uſed to go to Church, or trouble themſelves about Religion, till ſome of them heard Mr *John* and *Charles Weſley*, who then had a Deſire to flee from the Wrath to come. In order to this, they ſet apart one Evening in a Week, to meet and encourage one another, by reading a Chapter, ſinging a Pſalm or Hymn, and praying and converſing together.

The Revellers, finding their old Companions had forſaken them, were enraged at them more and more; inſomuch that they came one Evening when they were met,

met, in *November* 1743. and unroof'd the Shop that was aſide the Houſe, and thruſt down the Walls.

The next Time we met, they came in more Fury than before, threw great Stones, broke the Windows and Looking-glaſs, and made the Roof of the Houſe to crack and ſink, and ſeem every Moment as if it would break in upon us; inſomuch that we were obliged to preſs out in the Dark, in the Midſt of a Shower of Stones.

We thought it would be beſt afterwards, to meet in the Day, and accordingly we did. Immediately they blew a Horn, to gather their Company together. When they had gathered fifty or ſixty, they went from one Houſe to another, threatning to kill thoſe who would not go along with them. They went together to a Houſe, where were Things of Value, with a great Shout, ſwearing they would plunder. The Woman of the Houſe went out and aſk'd, What they wanted? They did not make much Reply; but part of them immediately went into the Garden, and daſhed in Pieces Things which coſt ſeveral Pounds.

We made Complaint hereof to a Juſtice, Mr *W. G.* He took a Warrant to fill up, and aſked us, "What "Number there was in all?" We told him, "About "ſixty." He then ſaid, "What, you are *Methodiſts!* "Get about your Buſineſs; you ſhall have no Warrant: "I am informed you are the vileſt Men that live."

George Hadley.
Samuel Hadley.
Joſ. Moore.

15. Upon *January* 13. 174$\frac{3}{4}$. I *Jonathan Jones* of *Darleſton*, about Eight or Nine at Night met in the Street a great Company of Rioters, who told me, they were going to deſtroy the reſt of my Goods, and pull my Houſe down, as they had *Joſhua Conſtable*'s. So I aſked for *Thomas Tunks*, who was called the Captain of the Mob, and gave him many good Words, and he took of me 2 *s.* 6 *d.* and ſome others I treated with Ale; ſo they perſuaded the reſt to let me alone for that Time.

The next Day came *John Stokes* with a great Club, and wanted ſome Money, or he ſaid he would break my Windows; but I put him away for the preſent with ſome Drink. The ſame Night, about Six o'Clock, came

came *John Bagot* and *John Linyard*, with each a great Club, and ſaid, "You have given Money to others, and "we will have ſome too; or elſe we will call the reſt "of our Company, and ſerve you as we have done your "Neighbours." So I gave them ſome Money, and they went off about Nine or Ten o'Clock. About Six or Eight with Clubs and Staffs came after, and *John Wilks* with a ſhort Gun; but my Neighbours and I, with giving them ſome Drink, perſuaded them to go away.

It was ſome Time before, juſt after the great Mob had broken all our Windows, that the Rev. Mr ——, with others, met at *Thomas Forſhew*'s, at the Sign of the *Crown*, and made a Writing, and the Mob was ſent to bring as many as they had a mind to ſign it. They declared, whoever did not come and ſign this, they would immediately pull his Houſe down. It was to this Effect: "That they would never read, or ſing, "or pray together again, nor hear Mr *Weſley* preach."

16. In the Month of *January*, I *Sarah Longmore*, late of *Darleſton*, was coming to *Wenſbury*, with my Brother and Siſter in-law; and about thirty Men ſtop'd us in the Fields, and aſk'd, "Where we were going?" We ſaid, "About our Buſineſs." Without any more to do, they began to throw Dirt and Stones at us, and then went before us and ſtop'd us at the Stile. Seeing a Gap in the Hedge, we offered to go thro' there; but they would not let us. I was knocked down only once, but was bruiſed in many Places.

Some Time before this happened, the Mob roſe at *Darleſton*, to near a Thouſand People. They took me by Force out of my Mother's Houſe, gave me a Club in my Hand, and ſaid, "If I did not go with them, "and pull down *Joſeph Spittle*'s Houſe, they would "murder me." *William Corfield* was the Man who put the Club in my Hand, and haled me along the Street. I threw down the Club, and when I came to the Place, ſaw them break open the Houſe, and bring out ſome of the Goods, the People belonging to it being fled for their Lives.

The ſame Day the Rev. Mr *E.* came to *Darleſton*; and *Nicholas Winſpur*, the common Crier of the Town, gave Notice, ringing his Bell, that all the People belonging

longing to the Society, muſt come to Mr *Forſhew*'s Houſe, and there ſet their Hands to a Paper, ſignifying, "That they would not hear theſe Men any more: But "if they did not come and ſet their Hands, they muſt "expect to have their Houſes pulled down."

When I came, Mr *Forſhew* aſked me, "If I could write?" I ſaid, No. Then he bid me make my Mark; ſo, thro' Fear, I did. I then laid down a Penny, which they made every one of us do, to make the Mob drink.

17. About *Candlemas*, my Wife was going to *Wenſbury*, and a Mob met her in the Road, and threw her down ſeveral Times, and abuſed her ſadly.

(The Manner is too horrible to write. The neareſt to a parallel Caſe, is that of the Woman abuſed by the Men of *Gibeah*; altho' in this Caſe are many Circumſtances exceeding that.)

I got a Warrant for ſome of them from Juſtice *G.* As ſoon as this was known, the Mob roſe and broke all my Windows again. All who were ſerved with the Warrant, eſcaped, but one the Conſtable took and brought before the Juſtice, who came back and told his Companions, "That the Juſtice bid them go home about "their Buſineſs." So they went home and told the Mob; and then they came to my Houſe, broke ſome Goods, and went away for a little Time; but when they came again, they broke and deſtroy'd all the neceſſary Goods we had in the Houſe. They likewiſe broke and ſpoil'd all my Shop Tools; threw the Tiles off of the Roof of the Houſe, pull'd down one Room, the Joiſt of which they carried away with them. Many Things they took away; particularly all my Gun-locks, both them that were filed, and them that were in the rough. They tore to Pieces all my Wife's Linnen, cut the Bed and Bed ſtead, ſo that it was good for nothing; broke her Box into little Bits, and tore her Bible and Common Prayer Book all to Pieces. We retired to a Friend's Houſe; but one telling them we were there, they ſwore they would tear it down, if he let us ſtay any longer. So we went out in the Froſt and Snow, not knowing where to lay our Head.

18. *John Allen* of *Wenſbury*, in the County of *Staffford*, *John Darby*, of *Brerely*, in the ſaid County, and

James

James Conſtable, of *Wenſbury* aforeſaid, jointly and ſeverally make Oath and ſay: And *firſt*, *John Allen*, for himſelf ſaith, That on *Monday*, the 6th Day of this inſtant *February*, being inform'd, that the Mob would come the next Day, to plunder ſeveral of his Friends and Acquaintance, he went to the Houſe of one *Francis Ward* of *Wenſbury*, and aſſiſted in removing Goods and Furniture: And that on *Tueſday* Morning, (being *Shrove-Tueſday*) this Deponent hearing the Mob was come to the Town, aſſiſted in removing divers other Goods; and that afterwards, on the ſame Day, he met about 300 Perſons, aſſembled together in a riotous Manner; and that preſently after, one *George Winſpur* of *Darleſton*, and divers others, broke and enter'd the Houſe of *Francis Ward*, broke down the Fire-grate fix'd therein, and then pull'd down, took and carried away all ſuch Goods as were left there, and which they were able to carry. After which one *John Baker* of *Wenſbury*, and a great Number of other riotous Perſons, came to the Houſe of *Francis Ward*, and broke the Windows; and then the ſaid *Baker*, with divers others, enter'd the ſame, and broke to Pieces and deſtroy'd the Bed-ſteads, and other Goods and Furniture.

The ſaid riotous Company then went to another Village, call'd *Weſt Bramwick*, and return'd back again to *Wenſbury*, where this Deponent ſaw one *Tho. Horton* of *Darleſton*, with divers others, go in a riotous Manner to the Houſe of *John Griffiths* of *Wenſbury*, and ſaw *Thomas Horton*, with a Sledge-hammer, break open the Door of that Houſe, which he, with others, enter'd, and deſtroy'd and broke to Pieces divers of the Houſhold Goods, and took and carried away the Remainder, or the greateſt Part thereof.

19. And the ſaid *John Darby* for himſelf ſaith, That on the ſaid 6th Day of *February*, he heard a great many People making a Noiſe: That he went thereupon into his own Houſe, and locked and bolted the Door: That in about a Quarter of an Hour, about Sevenſcore Perſons came up to this Deponent's Houſe; nine or ten of whom bid him give them Money, elſe they would break the Door: That *John Hammerſley* of *Darieſton*, and ſeveral others, with a great Rail of Wood, broke down the Door,

Door, and enter'd the Houſe, and caught up a large Ax, and broke to Pieces and deſtroy'd this Deponent's Goods and Windows. After which they deſtroy'd five Stalls of Bees, and kill'd and took away all his Hens, and threw the Hay out of his Barn; and carrying away what they thought proper, went to the Houſe of *Samuel Smith*, a Quarter of a Mile further, and broke his Windows. Thence they went in a riotous Manner to *Bilſton*, and in the Morning to *Wenſbury*.

20. *James Conſtable* ſaith, That on *Monday* the 6th inſtant, *Henry Old*, *Thomas Adams*, and *Francis Longmore*, all of *Darleſton*, came to *Werſbury*, and, with Oaths and Curſes, in this Deponent's Hearing, proteſted, "That they would come the next Day, and pull down "the Houſe of one *Benjamin Conſtable*, and have his "Heart and his Liver out." That accordingly, the next Day, about Ten in the Morning, he heard a great Huzza in the Town Street, and went to ſee what was the Matter,, when he, this Deponent, was immediately, by one *Samuel Cotterel* of *Darleſton*, and three others, ſeiz'd by the Collar, and forced to go into a great Concourſe of People, (about 300 Perſons) who had juſt broken into the Houſe of one *John Bird*, and were throwing the Goods of the ſaid *John Bird* out of the Windows of his Houſe: That thoſe who held this Deponent then letting him go, and running to get their Share of the Plunder, he went to the Houſe of *Benjamin Conſtable*; and about Two or Three o'Clock the ſame Day, the ſaid riotous Perſons came up to the Houſe, which was locked and bolted; and as this Deponent ſtood on the Outſide, he ſaw *Thomas Horton* with a large Hammer ſtrike at the Door, in order to break it open; which he not being able to do, *Joſeph Page* of *Darleſton* broke the Window, and forced out the Iron Bars of the ſaid Window with a Pike, and afterwards broke and enter'd the ſame, and unbolting the Door, let the other Rioters in: That *Thomas Tonks* of *Darleſton*, and divers others, with an Ax, wrenched and forced open the Door of *Benjamin Conſtable*'s Ware-houſe, riotouſly enter'd into the ſame, and broke to Pieces and deſtroy'd the Goods therein, ſpilt the Liquors therein placed, plunder'd and deſtroy'd ſuch Goods as they could not carry away, both Houſhold

Goods

Goods and Grocery Goods, and alſo Chandlers' Ware: That afterwards they went to this Deponent's Houſe, broke to Pieces all the Windows of his Houſe, plunder'd the ſame from Top to Bottom, broke to Pieces many of his Goods, and carried a great Part of them away: That thence they went to the Houſe of *Daniel Conſtable*, broke open and plunder'd it in the like Manner; and from thence to the Houſe of *Thomas Atherley*, which they alſo damaged and plunder'd.

All three ſworn at *Serjeants-Inn*, *London*, on *Feb.* 24. 1743. before *Wm Chapple.* } *John Allen.* *John Darby.* *James Conſtable.*

21. *Monday*, *Feb.* 6. we kept as a Faſt. Sixty or more of us met at One, and join'd in Prayer. About Eight we heard the Mob was at *John Griffith*'s, the Elder, breaking the Houſe and ſpoiling his Goods. This put ſome of us on removing our moſt portable Goods. When I came home, my Wife had awakened my youngeſt Girls, and carried them to a Neighbour's Houſe. We then laid down and committed our own Souls to God.

Next Morning, *Feb.* 7. *(Shrove-Tueſday)* all Things were pretty ſtill till Ten. We were all very chearful. The greateſt Fear we had, was leſt we ſhould deny our Maſter. For they had got a Paper, which if any one would ſubſcribe, his Houſe was not to be plundered: But the far greater Part, by the Grace of God, choſe rather the Loſs of all Things.

About half an Hour after Ten, great Numbers of Men were gathered together on the *Church hill*. We could ſee them march down, ſome armed with Swords, ſome with Clubs, and ſome with Axes. They firſt fell upon *Benjamin Watſon*'s Houſe, and broke many of the Tiles, and all the Windows. Next they came to Mr *Addinbrook*'s, broke a fine Clock, with many of his Goods, and ſtole all the Things they could carry away; among which were Writings of Importance, and Papers relating to the Land-tax. The next Houſe was *Jane Smith*'s, whoſe Windows they broke, with what little Goods ſhe had. The next was Mr *Bird*'s, where they deſtroy'd every thing they found, except what they carried away, cutting the Beds in Pieces, as they did all

the Beds they could any where find. Thence they went to Mr *Edge*'s Houſe: He was ill of a Fever; ſo, for a Sum of Money, they paſt it over. The next Houſe was mine: They were going by it; but one who uſed to be my familiar Friend, called them back. They broke my Counter, Boxes, and Drawers, to Chips, and all that Ax or Hammer could break, except my Bed ſteads. They ſpilt all my Drugs and Chymical Medicines, and ſtole every thing they could carry, even all my Wife's Wearing Apparel and mine, beſides what we had on.

Mr *Eaton*'s Houſe was next. They broke all his Windows, and all his Inſide Doors in Pieces, cut the Lead off his Houſe, deſtroy'd or ſtole whatever they could lay their Hands on. The Gentlemen offered to ſtop them, if he would ſet his Hand to the Recantation Paper. But he told them, "He had felt already what "a wounded Conſcience was; and, by the Grace of "God, he would wound his Conſcience no more."

The next Day they came with another Mob, and ſaid, "If he did not ſign it, they would level his Houſe "to the Ground." He told them, "They might "do as they pleaſed; but he would not ſign it if they "tore him Bit from Bit."

The Mob on *Tueſday*, after they had done at Mr *Eaton*'s, plunder'd ſeveral other Houſes in *Wenſbury*, and ſeveral in *Weſt Bramwick*. It is impoſſible to deſcribe the Outrages they have committed. We keep meeting together Morning and Evening, are in great Peace and Love with each other, and in nothing terrified by our Adverſaries. God grant we may endure to the End.

Feb. 26. *Humphrey Hands.*

22. On *Tueſday*, *Jan.* 31. 174$\frac{2}{3}$. *Henry Old* came to *John Griffith*, Senior's Houſe, ſaying, "If they did not "leave following *this Way*, he had 100 Men at his "Command, who ſhould come and pull the Houſe "down." Soon after he brought ſeven or eight Men with him, ſwearing what he would do, unleſs they gave him a Guinea. She ſaid, "A Guinea was not ſo ſoon "ſhaken out of poor Folks' Sleeves." Then he ſaid he would go and fetch the Mob; but the Neighbours gave him Money, and ſent him away for that Time.

Monday,

Monday, Feb. 6. between Seven and Eight at Night, came Part of the ſame Company. Hearing them afar off, *John* and his Wife faſten'd the Door, and left the Houſe. Some of the Neighbours going in ſoon after, found them deſtroying all they could. Two Chairs and ſeveral Bundles of Linen were laid upon the Fire. They did not dare to touch them, but perſuaded the Men all they could to go home. After they had deſtroy'd what they could, they loaded themſelves with Cloaths and Meat, and went their Way.

John Griffiths, Sen.

23. My Father ſending me word, that the Mob had been at his Houſe, and broke many of his Goods, and ſtole many, I removed as many as I could of mine, before they plunder'd my Houſe. And hearing they would force me to go with them, I ſent my Wife and Children before, and then followed them to her Father's; but he did not care to receive us. My Wife wept: I was full of Love, and not at all moved. At laſt their Hearts relented, and they took us in. This indeed was the Caſe with many of us. We were driven out of our own Houſes, and our Friends did not dare to receive us into theirs. The Reaſon for which my old Companions have the greateſt Spite to me is, becauſe I will not drink and game, and break the Sabbath with them, as I uſed to do. *John Griffiths*, Jun.

24. I *Edward Smith* of *Wenſbury*, ſtanding by my own Door, on *Shrove-Tueſday*, there came a great Mob, and broke into and plunder'd *Benjamin Conſtable*'s Houſe; then they came to my Houſe, and the foremoſt of them, *Thomas Horton*, with a great Hammer, broke open the Door. I begg'd them to let me unlock the Door; but he ſwore, if I did not get away, he would knock me down. At the ſame Time, *Richard Adams*, with a large Iron Bar, broke the Houſe window, and got through. A great Number of them followed both Ways, and plunder'd the Houſe, breaking ſome Goods, and ſtealing others; ſeveral Neighbours endeavouring to ſave them, but to no Purpoſe.

25. I *Edward Slater* of *Wenſbury*, was inform'd the Night before, that the Mob deſign'd to plunder my Houſe the next Day. And between Ten and Eleven on

Tueſday, ſtanding in the Fields, I ſaw them come down the Town, with Clubs and other Weapons, to Mr *Eaton*'s Houſe. Then the Colliers, by themſelves, ſwinging their Clubs round their Heads, gave a great Shout and a Jump together. Then they began breaking his Windows; and thoſe who firſt broke into the Houſe and went up Stairs, threw the Goods out of the Chamber Windows, which *Henry Old* cut to Pieces with an Ax. I ſaw ſome come out, with their Pockets, and Waiſtcoats, and Breeches, loaded with Goods. I went down the Field towards my own Houſe, got into a Valley, read part of a Chapter, and pray'd for them. Then I got up, and ſaw the Light thro' my own Houſe, both Doors and Windows being knock'd to Pieces. After they had plunder'd ſome other Houſes, I ſaw them go up the Street, laden with Braſs, Pewter, and Linnen.

26. According to your Requeſt, I ſend you ſome Account of what the Mob did on *Shrove-Tueſday*. When I heard they were in Town, and broke and ſtole all before them, I got out our Beds and Wearing Apparel, and hid them in the Hedges, and went and ſtood aſide of a Hedge, about 60 Yards off my own Houſe.

When the Mob came, they began with breaking the Windows. They then broke and ſtole all they could lay Hands on. They ſearch'd and found the Beds and Linnen which I had hid, and took all they thought worth carrying away. I waded thro' the Brook to try if I could ſave ſome of my Goods, which a Man was pulling out of the Ditch where I had hid them; his Name was *David Garington*. He told me, *It would be the ſame here, as it was in* Ireland; for *there would be* a Maſſacre *very quickly, and he wiſhed it was* now.

When they were gone, my Wife, and I, and two Children, came home. Our Houſe was all laid open: For both the Doors were gone, and all the Windows, and the Middle Poſts, were broke out. Being wet and very cold, we gathered up ſome of the Chips, (for our Goods were moſtly broke into Chips, and ſtrew'd about the Rooms) and made a Fire; but the Wind blew the Smoak ſo about, that we could not bear to ſit by it. We knew not what to do, till one of our Neighbours ſent us word, we might come to his Houſe. But one went

to

to *Walſal* the next Day, and told the Landlord, who came and told them that received us, "They muſt turn "out." And we expected there would not be an Houſe to receive a *Methodiſt* in the whole Country.

On *Aſh-Wedneſday* I was helping Mr *Eaton* to remove ſome Corn, which they had not found the Day before; when Mr *William Horton* came with a Paper in his Hand, and about 100 Perſons with him. He preſs'd Mr *Eaton* to ſign it, who refuſed. Then they laid hold of me, and ſwore I ſhould. I told them, I would not. They caught hold of my Collar, ſhook me, tore my Shirt and Waiſtcoat, puſh'd me from one to another, and aſk'd again, "Will you ſign the Paper yet?" I told them, No. They then got a Cord, put it about my Neck, and ſwore they would hang me out of hand. Others cried out, "Draw him thro' the Brook." But one of them ſnatch'd away the Cord, and ſaid, "If I "would not ſet my Hand, I might go about my Buſi-"neſs." They followed me, however, with many Stones; but, by the Providence of God, I was not hurt.

March 5. 174$\frac{2}{3}$. *John Turner.*

27. Having Notice that the Mob was coming, I *William Sitch*, of *Weſt Bramwick*, and my Wife, (who had been deliver'd but a Fortnight) thought it beſt to go out of the Houſe, and leave it to them. My Wife, with her young Child, was forced to ſtay in the Fields, none daring to take her into their Houſe. At length one Man did; but he was in a little Time perſuaded to turn her out again.

The Rioters plunder'd my Houſe three ſeveral Times, and did all the Miſchief they could; but bleſſed be God, I could rejoice therein. He has ſaid, *As thy Day, ſo thy Strength ſhall be.* And never did I find his Promiſe fulfilled more than at that Time. *William Sitch.*

28. On *Shrove-Tueſday*, after two large Mobs were paſt by, came four or five Men to my next Neighbour, *Jonas Turner*'s Houſe. I and another Woman followed them, to ſee what they would do. They firſt broke the Windows, then broke down the Door, and went into the Houſe. Soon after they were in, they flung out a Box at the Chamber Window, and ſwore, if any touch-

ed it, they would murder them. Soon after they flung out a Bible, and one of them came out, and in great Rage cut it into Pieces with his Ax.

Mary Turner, of *Weſt Bramwick.*

29. The firſt that came to my Houſe (*Thomas Parkes* of *Weſt Bramwick*) on *Tueſday*, *Feb.* 7. were five with great Clubs, whom I met at the Door. They demanded, "Whether I would deny hearing theſe Parſons?" I told them, "No; for I believed they ſpoke the Truth "as it is in Jeſus; and if I were to deny them, I ſhould "deny him that ſent them." They told me, "If I "would not, they would plunder my Houſe." I replied, "They muſt anſwer it at God's Bar, and I would "meet them there." I aſked, "Whether I had done "them any Harm?" They ſaid, "No; but they "would have me keep to the Church." I told them, "Some of you may know, that I worſhip among the "Diſſenters; but I love a good Man, let him go where "he will: For there is but one Church of Chriſt; and "if you do not belong to that Church, you had better "never have been born."

I told them, "God has allowed me Liberty of Con-"ſcience, and ſo have the King and Parliament, and I "hope my Neighbours will too; but if not, a Day is "coming, when the Perſecuted and the Perſecutor ſhall "ſtand together; and if you wrong me now, God will "right me then."

While I was ſpeaking, I caught hold of their Clubs, and the Words ſeem'd to have ſome Influence on them: But by this Time there was a great Body of them gathered together; ſo they broke my Windows, and then the Door, and flock'd into my Houſe, and began to break my Goods. But here the Lord ſuffered them not to go ſo far as they had done in other Places: For they ſoon fell to plundering and loading themſelves with the Things I had for myſelf, a Wife, and ſeven Children.

However, in a while, I had prevail'd with ſome of them to ſtop. But then they ſaid, "I muſt ſet my "Hand to their Paper." I told them, "They were "cloak'd over with the Name of Proteſtants; but none "but a *Popiſh* Spirit would tie Mens Conſciences." So

I

I commended my Cauſe to God, and withdrew from my Houſe and them.

As I went along, one who thinks herſelf a Chriſtian ſaid, "Now I might ſee God was againſt me." I told her, "I did now feel that God was for me, and that "he loved me never the leſs for this: For God loved "*Job* on the Dunghill with only a Potſheard, as well "as he did in all his Plenty." I thought ſhe, in effect, bid me "curſe God and die." May the Lord make her a Chriſtian indeed!

When I returned to my Houſe and ſaw it in Ruins, I found nothing in my Heart towards my Perſecutors but Love. Neither could I doubt of God's Love to my Soul. All that is within me bleſs his holy Name!

One Day ſix or eight of the Mob got me among them, and ſaid, "They were going to make a Law, "and we ſhould all ſet our Hands to it." I told them, "I would ſubmit to the Laws of God and my Prince; "but I could not to the Laws of the Devil." One of them ſwore, "He would break my Windows again." I aſk'd him, "If ever he heard of Jeſus Chriſt doing "ſo? And, how he durſt, when he muſt anſwer it at "his Bar?" At which he ſtood ſilent.

30. On *Shrove-Tueſday*, about Eleven o'Clock, *Sarah*, the Wife of *John Sheldon* of *Weſt Bramwick*, being told, the Mob was coming to her Houſe, went and met them at the Gate. Mr *S*——, Mr *J*——, and Mr *S*—— *L*——, Cornet, were at the Head of them. She aſked *John Baker*, who was Captain of the Mob, What they were come for? He anſwered, "If ſhe would have no-"thing more to do with theſe People, not a Penny-"worth of her Goods ſhould be hurt." She made no Reply. Then they broke the Door open, and began breaking and plundering the Goods. One coming out with a Fire-ſhovel, ſhe begg'd him, "not to take it "away." He ſwore, "if ſhe ſpoke another Word, "he would beat her Brains out."

After they had rifled the Houſe, they went to ſearch the Barn. Some Goods were hid there, which ſhe thought would now go with the reſt; ſo ſhe went and ſat contentedly down in the ruined Houſe: But a Man of their own, as bitter as the reſt till then, deſired they would

would not pull up the Cow's Stakes; ſo they looked no further; but ſeeing a Calf, they beat and lamed it in ſuch a Manner, that they were obliged to kill it.

John Sheldon was this while helping *Thomas Parkes* to hide his Goods, tho' he knew by the Noiſe they were breaking his own in Pieces. Between Two and Three he came to his Houſe with *William Sitch*. *William* aſked *Sarah*, how ſhe did? ſaying, "For his Part, he "took joyfully the ſpoiling of his Goods." She anſwered, That "ſeeing ſo much Wickedneſs, ſhe could "not rejoice; but ſhe bleſſed God ſhe could bear it pa-"tiently, and found not the leaſt Anger in her." *John Sheldon*, ſeeing the Spoil they had made, ſmiled and ſaid, "Here is ſtrange Work." His Wife told him, "If "ſhe had complied with their Terms, not one Penny-"worth would have been hurt." He replied, "That "if ſhe had complied to deny the Truth, and he had "found his Goods whole on that Account, he ſhould "never have been eaſy as long as he lived; but he "bleſſed God that ſhe had rather choſe to ſuffer wrong."

31. The Mob continued to riſe for ſix Days together. The Damage they did in and about *Wedneſbury*, at the very loweſt Computation, is as follows:

	L.	*s.*	*d.*
Benjamin Conſtable —	103	00	00
Humphrey Hands — —	44	06	07
John Eaton — — —	43	11	00
John Bird — — —	43	00	00
Richard Bolton — — —	40	00	00
Francis Ward — —	22	14	06
Godfrey Ward — —	22	06	04
John Turner — —	20	00	00
William Maſon — —	19	10	04
Thomas Parkes — —	14	00	00
John Sheldon — —	09	06	06
John Griffiths — —	03	15	08
Lydia Partridge — —	02	00	00
Joſeph Perry — —	01	10	00
John Darby — —	08	13	06
Jonas Turner — —	03	12	00
Richard Spittle — —	02	17	00
Joſ. Spittle — —	01	05	00

Edward

Edward Holdbury — —	04	10	00
Humphrey Hadley — —	13	11	00
John Griffiths — —	06	06	00
Benjamin Watſon —	02	11	00
Thomas Smith — —	07	15	06
Edward Smith — —	02	05	00
William Sitch — —	05	06	00
Daniel Conſtable — —	02	13	05
Henry Addinbrook —	15	14	04
Joſhua Conſtable — —	14	11	00
Joſ. Stubs and *Robert Dakin*	02	00	00
Jonathan Jones — —	03	00	00
William Small —	04	12	07
Thomas Edwardly — —	05	00	00
Edward Slater — —	09	12	10
	504	17	01

32. I *Benjamin Conſtable* was induced to go to a Juſtice of Peace, on account of a Warrant fetch'd by the Wife of *Joſhua Conſtable*, for Abuſe done to her, as ſhe went over the Field betwixt *Wenſbury* and *Darleſton*. She ſwore againſt five Men, before Mr *G*. The Warrant was executed upon one of them; but the Juſtice would not act any thing againſt him, unleſs the other four were brought before him. The Man returning home, raiſed a Mob the ſame Evening, went to the Houſe of *Joſhua Conſtable*, pulled part of it down, and deſtroy'd his Goods. This I thought proper toacquaint the Juſtice of.

A ſecond Thing which induced me was, That on the laſt Day of *January*, there came to my Houſe *Henry Old*, *Francis Longmore*, and *Thomas Baylis*, and demanded Money, "elſe, they ſaid, they would break my "Goods." But it being Day-time, and their Strength ſmall, (tho' they had large Clubs in their Hands) I refuſed.

I ſent to the Conſtable of *Darleſton*, to know if he would execute his Warrant on the other four. He ſent me word, "He durſt not do it, for fear of having his "Houſe pulled down."

I went on *February* 2. to Mr *G*. and gave him the above Account; and withal told him, that on the *Tueſ-*

day,

day following, *February* 7. they threaten'd to riſe and pull down our Houſes. He anſwered me in a rough Manner, and aſk'd, "What I would have him to do? "He could do no more than give out his Warrant; and "if the Conſtable would not or could not execute it, he "could not help it." I deſired him, "That he would "write a Line to the Officers of *Wenſbury* and *Darleſton*, "to exert themſelves for the diſcouraging any Riſing on "*Tueſday*." But he refuſed, and told me, "If we "could not agree among one another, we muſt *go to the Devil which Way we would*."

33. *John Bird*, of *Wenſbury*, in the County of *Staffford*, Carpenter, is ready to make Oath, That he, together with *William Mumford*, and *Mary Bird*, on the 10th Day of this inſtant *April*, went to the Houſe of *W*—— *G*——, Eſq; Juſtice of Peace, in order to have a Warrant for ſome of the principal Rioters, who had lately done great Damage to this Deponent, and divers other Perſons; but the ſaid Juſtice refuſed to grant any Warrant againſt them: That *William Mumford* then demanded a Warrant againſt ſome of the ſaid Rioters, who had done Damage to him; to which the ſaid Juſtice ſaid, They were *Methodiſts*; and, after ſeveral other Words, refuſed to grant it: That on the 13th inſt. this Deponent, together with *William Mumford*, and *Mary Bird*, went to the Houſe of *J*—— *D*——, Eſq; a Juſtice of the Peace in the ſaid County, and requeſted the ſaid Juſtice to grant him a Warrant to take up ſome of the Rioters; which the ſaid Juſtice refuſed to do: That on the 17th inſtant, this Deponent, together with *Mary Bird*, went to the Houſe of *W*—— *P*——, Eſq; a Juſtice of the Peace for the ſaid County, and requeſted a Warrant to take up ſome of the Rioters; to which the ſaid Juſtice anſwered him roughly, That he ſhould have no Warrant: And farther ſaid, That he, and the reſt of the Juſtices in the Neighbourhood, had concluded and agreed to grant us no Warrants. And this Deponent further ſaith, That he himſelf hath ſuſtained Damage by the Rioters, to the Value of 50*l* and upwards: And that neither he, nor any other Perſon, who hath ſuſtained Damage by them, are able to bring the ſaid Rioters to Juſtice; becauſe not any of the above mentioned

tioned Juſtices of the Peace, will grant any Warrant to apprehend them.

Such is the Liberty of Conſcience which Proteſtants grant one another! Does not he that is higher than the Higheſt regard it?

34. *Wedneſday, Oct.* 19. 1744. I *John Weſley* came to *Birmingham*, in my Way to *Newcaſtle*. *Thurſday, Oct.* 20. ſeveral Perſons from *Wenſbury* earneſtly deſired me to call there. I yielded to their Importunity, and went. I was ſitting and writing at *Francis Ward*'s, in the Afternoon; when the Cry aroſe, That the *Darleſton* Mob had beſet the Houſe. I call'd together thoſe that were in the Houſe, and prayed, that GOD would *ſcatter the People that delight in War*. And it was ſo: One went one Way, and one another; ſo that in half an Hour the Houſe was clear on every Side. But, before Five, they returned with greater Numbers. The Cry of all was, "Bring out the Miniſter."

I deſired one to bring the Captain of the Mob into the Houſe. After a few Words interchanged, the Lion was as a Lamb. I then deſired him to bring in one or two more of the moſt angry of his Companions. He did ſo; and, in two Minutes, their Mind was changed too. I then bade them who were in the Room make Way, that I might go out among the People. As ſoon as I was in the Midſt of them, I ſaid, "Here I am: "What do you want with me?" Many cried out, "We "want you to go with us to the Juſtice." I told them, "That I will with all my Heart." So I walked before, and two or three hundred of them followed, to *Bentley Hall*, two Miles from *Wenſbury*: But a Servant came out, and told them, "Juſtice *Lane* was not to be "ſpoken with." Here they were at a Stand, till one adviſed, to go to Juſtice *Perſehouſe*, at *Walſal*. About Seven we came to his Houſe: But he alſo ſent word, "That he was in Bed, and could not be ſpoken with."

All the Company were now pretty well agreed, to make the beſt of their Way home: But we had not gone 100 Yards, when the Mob of *Walſal* came pouring in like a Flood. The *Darleſton* Mob ſtood againſt them for a while; but, in a ſhort Time, ſome being knocked down;

down, and others much hurt, the reſt ran away, and left me in their Hands.

To attempt to ſpeak was vain, the Noiſe being like that of taking a City by Storm: So they dragged me along till we came to the Town, at a few hundred Yards Diſtance; where, ſeeing the Door of a large Houſe open, I endeavoured to go in: But a Man, catching me by the Hair, (my Hat having been caught away at the Beginning) pull'd me back into the Middle of the Mob; who were as ſo many ramping and roaring Lions. They hurried me from thence, through the main Street, from one End of the Town to the other. I continued ſpeaking all the Time to thoſe within hearing, feeling no Pain or Wearineſs. At the Weſt End of the Town, ſeeing a Door half open, I made towards it, and would have gone in; but a Gentleman in the Shop would not ſuffer me, ſaying, "They would pull the Houſe down, if I "did." However, here I ſtood, and aſked, "Are you "willing to hear me ſpeak?" Many cried out, "No, "no: Knock his Brains out." Others ſaid, "Nay; "but we *will* hear him ſpeak firſt." I began aſking, "What Hurt have I done you? Whom among you "have I wronged in Word or Deed?" And continued ſpeaking till my Voice fail'd. Then the Floods lifted up their Voice again; many crying out, "Bring him "away, bring him away."

Feeling my Strength renewed, I ſpoke again, and broke out aloud into Prayer. And now, one of the Men who had headed the Mob before, turned, and ſaid, "Sir, Follow me: Not a Man ſhall touch a Hair of "your Head." Two or three more confirmed his Words. At the ſame Time the Mayor (for it was he that ſtood in the Shop) cried out. "For Shame, for "Shame; let him go." An honeſt Butcher ſpoke to the ſame Effect; and ſeconded his Words by laying hold of four or five, one after another, who were running on the moſt fiercely. The People then dividing to the Right and Left, thoſe three or four Men who had ſpoken before, took me between them, and carried me through the Midſt; bitterly proteſting, "they would knock down any that touched him:" But, on the Bridge, the Mob rallied again: We therefore went on one Side, over a Mill-

dam,

Dam, and thence thro' the Meadows, till a little after Ten, God brought me ſafe to *Wenſbury*, having loſt only a Part of my Waiſtcoat, and a little Skin from one of my Hands.

I never ſaw ſuch a Chain of Providences before; ſo many convincing Proofs, that the Hand of God is on every Perſon and Thing, over-ruling all as it ſeemeth him good.

Among theſe I cannot but reckon the Circumſtances that follow: 1. That they endeavoured abundance of Times to trip me up, as we went down Hill, over the wet ſlippery Graſs to the Town; as well judging, that if I was once on the Ground, I ſhould hardly riſe again: But I made no Slip, nor the leaſt Stumble at all, till I was entirely out of their Hands. 2. That altho' many ſtrove to lay hold on my Collar, or Cloaths, they could not faſten at all; their Fingers, I cannot tell how, ſlipping along, without fixing once: Only one Man ſeiz'd the Flap of my Waiſtcoat, and took it away with him; the other Flap, in the Pocket of which was a Twenty Pound Bank Note, was torn but half off. 3. That a luſty Man juſt behind, ſtruck at me many Times with a large Oaken Stick; with which, if he had ſtruck me once on the Back of the Head, I ſhould probably have preach'd no more: But every Time the Blow was turn'd aſide, I know not how; for I could not move to the Right-hand or Left. 4. That another Man came ruſhing thro' the Preſs, raiſed his Arm to ſtrike, let it ſink again, and ſtroking my Head, ſaid, "What ſoft Hair he has? I "can't find in my Heart to hurt him." 5. That I went as ſtreight to the Mayor's Door, when I was a little looſed, for a few Moments, as if I had known it, (which they probably thought I did) and found him ſtanding in the Shop, which gave the firſt Check to the Fury of the People. 6. That no Creature (at leaſt within my Hearing) laid any thing to my Charge, either true or falſe; having in the Hurry, it ſeems, forgot to provide themſelves with an Accuſation of any kind. And, *laſtly*, That they were equally at a Loſs what to do with me, none propoſing any determinate Thing. The Cry of moſt was, "Away with him, away with "him:" Of others, "Kill him at once." But none ſo much as once mentioned how; only one or two, (I almoſt tremble to relate it) ſcream'd out, (with what Mean-

ing I cannot tell) "Crucify the Dog, crucify him."

By how gentle Degrees does God prepare us, either for doing or ſuffering his Will! Two Years ſince, one threw at me a Piece of Brick, which grazed on my Shoulder, but hurt me not. It was a Year after, that another threw a Stone, which ſtruck me between the Eyes: But the Hurt was ſoon healed; and ſtill no Man had Power to lay a Hand upon me. At *St Ives*, laſt Month, I received one Blow, the firſt I ever had, on the Side of the Head; and this Night two, one before we came into the Town, and one after I was gone out into the Meadows. But tho' one Man ſtruck me on the Breaſt with all his Might, and the other on the Mouth, ſo that the Blood guſhed out, I felt no more Pain from either of the Blows, than if they had touch'd me with a Straw. *Oct.* 22. 1743.

"*Lo, I come!* If this Soul and Body may be uſeful to any thing, *to do thy Will, O God.* And if it pleaſe thee to uſe the Power thou haſt over Duſt and Aſhes, over weak Fleſh and Blood, over a brittle Veſſel of Clay, over the Work of thine own Hands; lo, here they are, to ſuffer alſo thy good Pleaſure. If thou pleaſe to viſit me either with Pain or Diſhonour, I will *humble myſelf* under it, and thro' thy Grace, be *obedient unto Death, even the Death upon the Croſs.* Whatſoever may befal me either from Neighbours or Strangers, ſince it is Thou employeſt them, tho' they know it not, (unleſs thou help me to ſome lawful Means of redreſſing the Wrong) I will not *open my Mouth before the Lord* who ſmiteth me, except only to *bleſs the Lord.* Hereafter no Man can take away any thing from me, no Life, no Honour, no Eſtate: Since I am ready to lay them down, as ſoon as I perceive Thou requireſt them at my Hands. Nevertheleſs, *O Father, if Thou be willing, remove this Cup from me; but if not, thy will be done.* Whatever Sufferings hereafter may trouble my Fleſh, or whatever Agonies may trouble my Spirit, *O Father, into thy Hand will I commend* my Life, and all that concerneth it. And if thou be pleaſed, either that I live, yet a while, or not, I will, with my Saviour, *bow down my Head*; I will humble myſelf under thy Hand; I will give up all Thou art pleaſed to aſk, [illegible] *I give up the Ghoſt.*"

J. S.